

TECHNICAL NOTES OF EXPLANATION TO TREND TABLES

TOTAL UNDUPLICATED RECIPIENTS AND PAYMENTS (Table 1)

This table shows the unduplicated count of persons receiving money payments and the amount of those payments under the Family Independence Program, State Emergency Relief, State Disability Assistance, Energy Assistance, and Food Stamps. It also shows the estimated number of people receiving financial assistance from FIA.

An unduplicated count means that each recipient (or case as noted in other tables) is counted only once even though assistance may have been received under more than one of the financial assistance programs administered by FIA.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (FIP) (Tables 2 - 7)

FIP Non Two Parent and Two Parent: The FIP Non Two Parent component are families containing children or a pregnant woman. The FIP two parent component are families with two adult recipients.

Most FIP warrants (checks) are issued twice monthly from the FIA Client Information System (CIS). When a FIP case is opened an early payment check is usually issued by the local FIA office. FIP cases are an unduplicated count of cases receiving one or more checks (computerized and/or early payments) during the report month. This count is the “official” FIP caseload used for Federal reporting, agency budgeting, and the legislative appropriation. The number of FIP openings and closings are determined by matching monthly FIP payrolls, e.g., a case appearing on July's payroll and not appearing on June's payroll would be counted as a July “case opening,” a case not appearing on July's payroll but appearing on June's payroll would be counted as a July “case closing.” The number of FIP recipients is defined as the number of persons for whom assistance is issued.

The FIP employment rate is the percent of FIP cases containing one or more employed persons.

STATE ASSISTANCE (SA) (Table 8)

State Disability Assistance (SDA): This program provides financial assistance to disabled persons who are not eligible for SSI. A person must be disabled according to one or more of the following criteria: **1)** the person is unable to work due to physical or mental disability for at least 90 days from the onset of the disability, **2)** the person is a caretaker of a disabled person (does not have to be related to the caretaker or be in need of financial assistance) provided that the assistance of a caretaker is determined medically necessary, and the caretaker and the disabled person live together, **3)** the person is a resident of an adult foster care home, a home for the aged, a substance abuse treatment center (SATC), or a county infirmary, **4)** the person is receiving post-residential substance abuse treatment within 30 days following discharge from a SATC.

The Michigan SDA payroll system operates essentially the same as the FIP payroll system. The SDA caseload is an unduplicated count of cases receiving a computerized and/or early payment check during the report month. This count is the “official” SDA caseload used for agency budgeting and legislative appropriation.

STATE EMERGENCY RELIEF (SER) (Tables 9 - 11)

SER is intended to provide immediate assistance to persons in emergency situations to secure decent and safe housing and to remove other threats to health and safety. The total SER caseload is an unduplicated count of Federal and State funded cases for whom a vendor check and/or client check was issued for such emergency type items as food, clothing,

appliances, home repairs, shelter, utilities, household items, furniture, etc. Over four-fifths of the SER recipients also receive FIP or SA. The Federally funded segment covers families with child(ren) under age 21, with eligibility limited to one period of thirty consecutive days in any twelve consecutive months.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (MA) (Table 12)

The goal of MA is to assure that high quality medical care is available to those people who are unable to pay for it and to furnish care in a manner which respects the dignity and individuality of each person. Two groups are eligible for the covered medical services. The first group are people who receive FIP or SSI or meet the non-financial requirements of those programs. The second group are “medically needy”. The distinguishing characteristic between the two groups is that the “medically needy” have income and/or property valued above the FIP or SSI level.

This table shows the total number of persons eligible for Medicaid during the indicated report month. These data are presented on an estimated basis.

FOOD STAMPS (FS) (Tables 13 - 15)

The purpose of the Food Stamp program is to increase the food purchasing power for those households whose income is a substantially limiting factor. The total number of food stamp households is an unduplicated count of households to whom food stamps were issued during the report month.

The number of public assistance households is the number of food stamp households receiving Family Independence Program or State Assistance; the number of non-public assistance households is the number of food stamp households not receiving Family Independence Program or State Disability Assistance.

Food Stamp Cash Out is the issuance of food stamp benefits by check instead of food stamp coupons. The Federal Food and Consumer Service granted the Agency a waiver to test cash out as a work incentive. Food stamp households receive cash out when they have earned income of at least \$350 per month for three consecutive months. (Note: Households are not eligible for cash out if they have an adult identified on the Child Protective Services Registry within the six months prior to income eligibility for cash out.) Cash out was implemented in May, 1996.

SUPPLEMENTARY SECURITY INCOME (SSI) (Table 16)

SSI is administered by the Federal government and provides money payments to persons who are age 65 or over, blind or disabled with limited income and resources.

This table is the unduplicated number of recipients receiving a Federal payment for SSI and/or State supplementation for SSI. It reflects recipients and payments for SSI cases active at the beginning of the report month (referred to as a “one-day count”) and for this reason, the recipient counts and payments are lower (about 3% for recipients, and 10% for payments) than for the unduplicated count of recipients receiving SSI throughout the report month.

CHILD DAY CARE (Table 17)

This program provides payments for child care for children, up to the age of 13, for up to 12 hours in a 24-hour period, with a maximum of 140 hours every 2 weeks, if a parent is unavailable or unable to provide the care because of employment, education or health/social reasons. (Note: Children ages 13-18 may receive child care under certain circumstances.) Care can be provided outside the child's home in a registered family day care home; licensed group day

care home or day care center; or in a relative's home by an enrolled relative day care provider. Care can be provided in the child's home by an enrolled day care aide.

HOME HELP SERVICES (Table 18)

This program is funded under both Title XX and Title XIX and primarily provides payments for services to assist eligible individuals with personal care activities necessary in daily living to maintain independence in self-care needs. Included are services which are necessary to meet basic self-care setting. The services are provided by personal care providers and housekeepers employed by the recipient. Also provided is a payment for the maintenance of a trained service dog.

The table includes cases and payments with Title XX and/or Title XIX funding. The count of total cases indicated in Line 1 is less than the sum of Title XX cases in Line 4 and Title XIX cases in Line 7 because some cases received home help services under both Title XX and Title XIX funding sources.

SOCIAL SERVICES (Table 19)

This count includes the total unduplicated number of cases eligible to receive social services under the following programs during the report month: community placement (adults and children), day care for children, delinquency services, employment support services, family services, protective services (adults and children) and independent living services. The unduplicated number of cases means that the sum of cases under the previously mentioned services add to more than the total because a case may be opened under more than one program.

Applications reflects the number of applications registered during the report month under various service categories, i.e., adult community placement, children's foster care, court initiated guardianship, delinquency, preventive services/families, adult protective services, children's protective services, independent living, adoption services, interim services, and youth in transition.

FOSTER CARE (Table 20)

Title IVE Foster Care: This program covers maintenance costs for children in foster care. The child must have received FIP or have been eligible to receive FIP during the month in which petition for removal from the home was signed. A court order making the Agency responsible for the child's placement and care is also required.

State Ward Board and Care: This program covers the foster care of children accepted as wards of the Agency upon commitment by a juvenile court, and who are not eligible for Title IVE funding. The table excludes non-certified payments and related children.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE (EA) Table 21)

Energy Assistance is the umbrella name given to the several component programs designed to aid low income families in meeting their heating needs and to provide energy-related home repairs to assist households to reduce their energy consumption. The components below are supported primarily with Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) block grant funds.

Home Heating Credit (HHC): Maintenance benefits issued by the Michigan Department of Treasury to low income households. Benefits are issued in the form of warrants or drafts. The data includes State and LIHEAP funding.

SER Energy Services: Emergency assistance issued on behalf of low income, non-FIP/SDA households in need of emergency heating assistance, energy related home repairs, or facing shut-off of electricity. This program also provides energy related home repairs to FIP/SDA households. To qualify, households must meet SER eligibility standards.

Heating Assistance for FIP/SDA cases: Heating assistance for FIP/SDA recipients requesting heat expenses to be paid to a vendor, in need of a deliverable fuel, or with a shut-off notice from their fuel provider. This reflects data under the positive billing and FIA-849 energy payment systems, for cases active in the program indicated.

Electric Assistance for FIP/SDA cases: Provides electric assistance for FIP/SDA cases to prevent shut-offs. This reflects data under the positive billing and FIA-849 energy payment systems, for cases active in the program indicated.

RECOUPMENT (Tables 22 - 24)

The Automated Recoupment System (ARS), which became operational in October 1985, is a subsystem of the Client Information System (CIS), and is designed to aid and support local office efforts to maintain information and recoup client over-issuances for the FIP, SDA, and Food Stamp programs. ARS includes both administrative recoupment, i.e., reduction of FIP or SDA cash grants or Food Stamp coupon allotments on active cases, as well as on-line recording of cash payments for active or inactive cases.

The recoupment data source is the GH-290/292 and GH-400 reports. Previously manual adjustments were made in order to make the data from these two reports match. Manual adjustments are no longer being made beginning October 1992. This data should therefore be viewed with caution as the reliability of the data is questionable.

Cases Making Payment: Shows the total amount recouped during the month, by program, including the administrative recoupment or cash for FIP and SDA, and administrative recoupment or cash/stamps for Food Stamps. Collection rates for administrative recoupment vary by program requirements, grant or allotment levels, and type of over-issuance.

Balances for Active and Inactive Cases: Shows the total amount of the recoupment balance, as well as the active and inactive recoupment balances for FIP, SDA and Food Stamps as of the end of the month.

Balances by Type of Overpayment: Shows FIP, SDA, and Food Stamp recoupment balances as of the end of the month, by the type of over-issuance, i.e., overpayments which were determined through the involvement of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) or designated representative (DR); over-issuances determined by a disqualification hearing or waiver or court/consent agreement with no OIG involvement (Intentional Program Violation); over-issuances caused by the action or inaction on the part of the client (Client Error); over-issuances resulting from the action or inaction of the FIA local or central office (Agency Error).